(c) There were 7276 employees in IDPL as on 31.3.1998.

Automobile production

1291. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of passenger cars, trucks, three-wheelers, scooters etc. from 1995-96 to 1997-98; separately; year-wise; and

(b) the rate of increase in prices for each during this period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Total production of various automotive vehicles during last 3 years were as under:—

(In Nos.)

	Production		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Commercial Vehicles	217437	240551	160998
Car	348240	411145	407453
Multi Utility Vehicles	106251	134583	134613
Two Wheelers	2656017	2979227	3072667
Three Wheelers	176413	221619	234867

(b) the rate of increase in prices of vehicles is not maintained as there is no administrative control or price regulation.

Closure of cement factories

1292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many cement factories have been either closed or have stopped production in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that 17 out of 30 Mini cement units in Andhra Pradesh have been closed; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to help the cement industry from closure?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Fifteen large cement plants are reported closed or have stopped production due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability. Out of fifteen cement plants, three are in Madhya Pradesh, two each in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) The data relating to Mini cement plants is not maintained centrally.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units including those reported on the verge of closure. These, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Funds etc.

Centrally-sponsored growth centre schemes

1293. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise Centrally-sponsored growth centres functioning or proposed to be set up;

(b) the criteria adopted to set up growth centres in various States; and

(c) the Central assistance released for the growth centres, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed through out the country. Each of the approved growth centre is eligible for Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores (Rs. 15 crore for growth centres in NE States) for development of infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunications, banking etc., enabling them to